

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

An authentication code for a diagnostic code is generated. In one aspect, the authentication code includes a timestamp indicating when the diagnostic generating the diagnostic code was run. In a further aspect, the authentication code includes a serial

5 number for a computer system running the diagnostic. In a still further aspect, the authentication code includes a serial number for a component being diagnosed. The authentication code may be generated on the system being diagnosed, or it may be obtained from a server communicably coupled to the system being diagnosed.

10 Additionally, the diagnostic code may be obtained from a file residing on the computer system being diagnosed, or on a server.